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EXPEDITION TO THE AMAZON

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Mr. Algot Lange, of New York, writes from the headwaters of the Cairary and Mojū in the Amazon region, Brazil, as follows:

I took my 6-man canoe above 5 long and dangerous rapids at the headwaters of the Mojū and Cairary rivers and after 15 days search I got in touch with this virgin tribe. I use the term virgin because, as I sit here alone (the only non-savage man) among about 50 Indians, I see how absolutely untouched and unspoiled this tribe is. They use stone axes and I am now showing them the use of steel axes.

Their language is not Tupi. What stock can it be, Arowak or Carib? They are agriculturists and have felled about 30 acres of jungle, with their stone axes—it looks to me as if they must have chewed the trunks. They grow cotton.

The men go nude absolutely. The women wear a narrow, colored loin-cloth.

I am received very hospitably. I am here in commission by the government [of Brazil] to look up the indigenous tribes and ascertain their different social and economic possibilities and their most urgent needs and the best way of entering into friendly relationship.

Some of the men have almost Hebraic features with brown eyes. They are tall and muscular in build. They have great skill with the bow and arrow, one bow for tapir and jaguar hunting being eight feet long.

F. S. DELLENBAUGH,
Secretary, Explorers Club

November 5, 1913

QUOTATIONS

FREE SPEECH AND THE FACULTY

IF there is one place that freedom of thought and speech should be safeguarded, it is in our college and university faculties. Presumably, no professor is obliged to wear the gag, yet it is worth observing that members of the Political Science Association have seen fit to appoint a committee "To examine and report upon the present situation in American institutions as to liberty of thought, freedom of speech and security of tenure for teachers of political science." It may be that this measure

is preventive rather than remedial. It may be that these instructors in political sciences apprehend pressure by means of the various endowment, retirement and pensioning funds and take this method of safeguard against a possible dilemma arising therefrom. But it is even more probable that the unpleasant experiences of certain of their number who have come into collision, by one means or another, with sectarian prejudices, sinister interference or powerful political rings have not been without a prompting effect. With the exception of the state universities, most of our academic institutions are, of course, dependent on the liberality of private donors. It is well known that the terms of these gifts are often embarrassing—half a million to build a museum for the testator's collection of private hobbies, when the institution needs a dormitory or a library. The difficulty is that a donor who is placing an institution as deeply under obligation as may be represented by a gift of hundreds of thousands would need to be a very extraordinary and superior person not to conceive that some sort of deference was due his opinions in return. It speaks well for the grade of men who have thus far endowed our colleges that there has been comparatively little interference with the truths they teach, at least so far as the public has been informed—what private griefs they have we know not. But as lines of political cleavage grow more distinct, as they promise to do, it will become increasingly difficult to maintain this attitude of non-interference, and it may be that this action of the professors of political sciences will yet prove to have been well-timed.

The episode raises the whole question of intellectual liberty. Each age has thought it won, and each age has seen a new difficulty arise out of the vanquishing of the old. The universities, whatever their faults, have always been sanctuaries for independent minds. Unless they are so maintained, they will hardly be worth the name. The distinction between liberty and license in the citizen is recognized and enforced. The same principle underlies all academic independence.—*Boston Transcript*.